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■ **CHILD CARE:** E.W. Farr Memorial opens its library to A Child's World

## Day-care centre coming to Fenwick

VICTORIA GRAY  
Tribune Staff

PELHAM — Parents might find it easier to get day care for their children in Pelham this fall. E.W. Farr Memorial Public School principal Jeff Fraser and A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara executive director Kim Cole and its program coordinator, Katherine Martin, were at the Fenwick school Wednesday afternoon to announce A Child's World day-care centre is opening inside the school in September for students from junior kindergarten to age 12.

See **DAY CARE** | page 2



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Kim Cole, executive director of A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara, left, E.W. Farr Memorial Public School principal Jeff Fraser and Child's World program director Katherine Martin announce a new child-care centre will open in the Fenwick school in September.

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# upfront

## ■ DAY CARE

## Centre to open in library

FROM PAGE 1

Fraser said he dealt with many parents trying to find child care and it was clear to him there weren't enough spaces for children in the community.

"In this day and age most people travel outside of the community to work in larger centres and we always learn from our parents and help them with their needs," he said.

The centre will open in the current library at the school and operate from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Cole said the centre's curriculum for junior kindergarten mimics the Ontario senior kindergarten curriculum.

"We want to make sure their transition is as seamless as possible," she said.

Cole said after meeting Fraser and seeing the location there were more pros than cons to setting up shop at the school.

"The school is very well-suited to primary school children," she said. "We want to help the community and it's nice to have such a positive principal and partnership from the beginning." (Fraser) is so pro-children and that really helps.

To sign up for the day-care service visit [www.niagararegion.ca/children](http://www.niagararegion.ca/children), register for One List and search for a Child's World.

## ■ PROPOSED NEW HOSPITAL: South wants assurances that funds are available for new construction

## Mayors want ministry nod before site OK

EDDIE CHAU  
Tribune Staff

WELLAND — The Ministry of Health must give the green light before a decision can be made on where to build a south Niagara hospital.

It's a sentiment echoed by several area mayors.

Welland's Barry Sharpe, Port Colborne's Vance Badawey, April Jeffs of Wainfleet, Doug Martin of Port Erie, Niagara Falls' Jim Diodati and Pelham's Dave Augustyn met with

Regional Chair Gary Burroughs last Friday in the first of a series of meetings to discuss a possible hospital site.

Diodati told QMI Agency Niagara after the meeting that the province should first endorse a new hospital before the mayors make a final decision on where it should be built.

"We need to hear from the minister of health. We don't want to be doing this in vain," Diodati said last Friday. "We want to know if (Health

Minister Deb Matthews) is on side and supportive, and get a commitment on that, or else why go through this exercise?"

Jeffs agreed with her Niagara Falls counterpart, stating the Ministry of Health must give its blessing in order to "get the ball rolling" on deciding an appropriate site.

"We want to ensure that there's proper funding available," Jeffs said. "It can be located anywhere. Location is a huge issue. We have to be able to build it, too."

Sharpe said the meeting with Burroughs went well and said there was a common agreement that it should be clear funding is available to support a hospital in south Niagara.

"We have to make sure it is a possibility before we go on," Sharpe said.

Provincially appointed Niagara Health System supervisor Kevin Smith recently recommended a new hospital in the region's south end to complement the one under construction in St. Catharines

— and replace the Welland, Port Colborne, Port Erie and Niagara Falls hospitals. Smith asked south Niagara mayors to suggest a suitable location for a new hospital and an urgent care centre.

Smith noted at the time it would cost about \$1.1 billion for badly needed renovations to south Niagara's four hospitals.

It would cost \$850 million to build a new hospital to serve those communities, he said.

## ■ WAITING LISTS: Region has 'high demand and limited funds'

## Day-care shortage hits Niagara homes

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI  
QMI Agency Niagara

ST. CATHARINES — Finding care for her children just got a lot harder for at least one local mom.

With a semester of school ahead of her, 30-year-old Amanda — who didn't want her surname used — said she's at a loss to find care for her infant daughter. She said she has been receiving it from Niagara Region but is been unable to get it now. And her April lessons about to begin.

She's got no beef with the region's workers — they've been a great help, she said — but "it certainly makes every-

thing a bit harder," she said. "I'm not sure what's going to happen."

Amanda, who is studying social work at McMaster University,

is one of many caught in a painful child-care pinch at the region that has seen hundreds put on a waiting list as the system grapples with escalating demand, rising costs and not enough cash to go around.

Children's services director Kathryn O'Hagan-Todd said



Baty

the region has implemented waiting lists for everyone seeking child care subsidies except those who work.

That means waits of about three months for a care space to open up for parents in school, like Amanda, or on the hunt for a job.

Even for those who are working, she said, it's taking eight to 10 weeks.

The lists were put in place Jan. 15, she said.

"It's been building for a couple of years," she said, crediting the economic downturn with increased demand for fully-subsidized child care.

"We know it's creating hard-

ship for people, but we really are in a place where we have high demand and limited funds."

O'Hagan-Todd said the region gets about \$20 million a year for child care services.

But that's a fixed amount and it hasn't gone up since 2005 when, she said, the region got funding for the Best Start program.

She figured the region needs another \$1.2 million — about 350 child-care spaces worth of cash — to meet the demand.

O'Hagan-Todd said working families get priority because the Region is required by the province to provide them child care. But they're also where

the bulk of the demand comes from.

Pelham Coun. Brian Baty, co-chair of regional council's public health and social services committee, said the crunch comes with more child care workers flocking to better-paying jobs at school boards to provide full-day kindergartens.

He said demand is especially high for care for toddlers. Caring for them, he said, costs more and takes more staff than looking after kids ages four and five.

"They're caught in a funding trap," Baty said. "It's a very, very difficult situation for, I think, all of the people."

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■ **AGRICULTURE:** Fenwick farmer's wind machine investment pays off

## Deep freeze may deep-six some tree fruit crops

DON FRASER  
QMI Agency Niagara

**ST. CATHARINES** — A spring of roller-coaster temperatures in Niagara has derailed swaths of this year's fruit crop.

After a warm March that lured buds and blossoms out early, the last weekend in April proved devastating for many stone fruit and apple growers.

Long overnight temperature dips of -1°C to -5°C hammered orchards in some less-protected areas away from Lake Ontario and the Niagara River. Tom Moyer of Cherry Avenue Farms in Lincoln has a blunt assessment of this season's cherries, peaches and nectarines.

"By cold weather standards, it is a car crash," he said. "We're all in a bit of a state of shock. There will be some fruit around, how much who knows, but it's really, really bad."

"What's unique about this one, is from Lake Michigan to lower Canada, everyone's in trouble."

It's so rough, in fact, the popular pick-your-own fruit operation advises on its website it will be "extremely fortunate to even have 10 to 20% of a normal crop."

Cherry Avenue advises there's a chance there will be no fruit for picking this year.

Phil Treggno, a Niagara-on-the-Lake grower and new chair of the Ontario Tender Fruit Producers Marketing Board, said the cold shock means Niagara will likely only see 70% of a full crop this year.

Niagara produces about 85% the province's \$48-million annual tender fruit crop industry.

Treggno said "certain areas and certain growers have been devastated

with the (hard frosts), other areas have been relatively untouched."

"We do know there are individual growers in certain locations that are completely wiped out," he said, adding worst-hit areas are well away from water-body temperature moderation.

Grapes, not included in that total, appear largely unscathed, but apple, cherries, plums and nectarines fared the worst.

Grape and tender-fruit crop consultant Kevin Ker has seen damage tree fruit in this area, including some pears. However, it seems to be sporadic, he said. "Those closest to the lake and river fared better than those further back."

"Younger trees were definitely hit more so than older trees," Ker said, as were blossoms on the lower parts of trees. "We're all in a wait-and-see for about the next week or so to see what (fruit) is going to size."

Grape Growers of Ontario CEO Debbie Zimmerman said area vines are in pretty good shape.

"I don't think you're seeing damage of any significance," Zimmerman said. "You are seeing some with early hybrids like the Baco Noir ... but that has yet to emerge."

"We're not seeing the same issues as tree or stone fruit."

Ontario Apple Growers warned in a release Friday Ontarians can expect fewer locally-grown apples this fall, and they'll likely be more expensive.

It predicts a tough year for apple farmers, with some seeing a 100% orchard loss this season. Every apple grower is affected, it said.

Dan DeVries of DeVries Fruit Farm in Fenwick has



Cherry farmer Tom Moyer takes a look at damage in his cherry orchard in Vineland on Monday.

JULIE JOCSAK Standard Staff

about 18 hectares of apple trees. DeVries is among the fortunate ones, having invested in wind machines that help keep warmer air around lower apple blossoms.

Where there are wind machines, there will likely be a reasonable crop with 20-25% loss. Unprotected trees are showing a 70% loss.

With the wind machines,

most damage to blossoms was "significantly less," DeVries said.

Moyer said despite his operation's setback, the crew at Cherry Avenue Farms is unde-

tered. Bad seasons happen, and his family's had more than 200 years of farming behind it.

"We will be there next year," he said. "We've been through this."

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## perspective



Wayne Campbell  
EDITOR

### Youth gambling threatens to lead to adult addiction

It's hip, cool, sexy and all too common. Gambling: The lure of easy money, the thrill of the bet, the high of winning and the desperate hope the next wager will put you back on the right side of broke.

For a growing number of Canadian youth, the appeal is all too real and the Canadian Pediatric Society is warning that teenagers who bet on odds, wager on sports or scratch lottery tickets could be at risk of gambling problems.

It's easy to dream of quick money – the government makes it look incredibly appealing. One only needs to see the OLG's barrage of television commercials to want to be driving a fast car, living in a big house, vacationing every week for life, and never having to work.

More alarming is the number of youth revenue from government-run lotteries, video lottery terminals, casinos and slot machines not in casinos in Canada was \$2.67 billion. In 2008, that ballooned to \$13.67 billion.

Gaming has become Canada's largest entertainment industry, roughly the same as professional sports, movies, television and music combined.

More alarming is the number of youth exposed to gambling at a young age.

The Problem Gambling Institute of Ontario notes 45% of teens played poker in the past year, and 18% of teens worry about their friends' poker playing with 15% feeling poker is a problem at their school. Of Ontario students in Grades 7 to 12, 28% or 29,000 students reported having a gambling problem.

While online poker sites and TV coverage are easy targets for finger-pointing, it is often a more innocent exposure to gambling that leads to problems – and it starts at home.

Some parents are for grown-ups. Gambling is one of them.

—John Chambers

# Monarchy Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

BY MALCOLM ALLEN

Throughout Canada's history, the monarchy has been a symbol of strength and continuity. As Canada's Head of State, Her Majesty the Queen of Canada embodies an enduring institution that serves to safeguard Canadians' rights and freedoms.

For the past six decades, the Queen has served the Crown and Canada with steadfast devotion. To date, she has paid 22 visits to our great country, travelling through communities large and small, engaging with Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

During her last tour of Canada, she expressed the sentiment that she was "home," a perspective shared by so many Canadians who welcomed her with warmth.

This year marks a tremendous occasion for the Queen. In 2012, we celebrate the 60th anniversary

of Her Majesty's accession to the throne as the Queen of Canada, which is only the second time such a milestone has been achieved in the history of the monarchy. To recognize this remarkable event, the federal government has begun several special initiatives to honour the Queen's reign, her service and dedication to our country; as well as to celebrate Canadian achievements over the past 60 years.

To launch the celebrations, Canada Post issued collectable stamp keepsake folders at the beginning of the year. Then in February, Canada's Diamond Jubilee Flag and the Queen's personal Canadian Flag were raised on Parliament Hill for the day on February 6. Our Conservative Government was subsequently pleased when The Royal Warrant within four days of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

## Suppressing charitable voices a disservice to all Canadians



David Suzuki  
ENVIRONMENT

Canada would be a different place without our 80,000 registered charities dedicated to everything from health to economic policy to the environment.

We'd be much poorer without the two million employees and millions of volunteers who devote their time to causes that strengthen our nation.

Recent efforts by the federal government and its backers in media and industry front groups like ethical Oil to demonize and silence legitimate organizations ignore the important role charities play in Canada.

That's why environmental and other organizations are joining with Canadians from all walks of life for Black Out speak Out! Blackoutspeakout.ca/silencecanpenn.caenfranc), launched on May 7 with ads in the national media and culminating in a website blackout June 4.

Canadians understand the value of charitable organizations.

Close to 85% of us over 15 years

Cornwall accepted our invitation to visit Canada in May 2012, an event which I am privileged to attend.

In addition, and as most of you know, the office of the Governor General of Canada will be awarding the Diamond Jubilee Medal all year-long. This commemorative medal is a way for Canadians to honour Her Majesty for her service to our country.

At the same time, it serves as recognition for those hard-working Canadians who have, and continue to make significant contributions to our communities. During this year of celebration, 60,000 medals will be awarded to deserving Canadians, 30 of which I have the honour to bestow upon constituents of my riding.

To be eligible for the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, one must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;

as well as the Great Bear Rainforest and the northern boreal forest get increased protection.

Perhaps more importantly, we've facilitated opportunities for Canadians to engage in important discussions about conservation of the oil water, land and biodiversity on which we all depend.

It's why we're astounded by the increasing efforts to stifle so many people and organizations that devote countless hours to the often thankless and less-than-lucrative tasks of ensuring that Canada remains a stellar example of an open and democratic country with strong social values and a clean and healthy environment.

If we are committed to these ideals, then it follows we should also value freedom of speech and opportunities for a range of viewpoints on matters of national interest.

It's fair to place limits on the extent and types of work or organizations with charitable status can do. It's fair to ask questions about donations and what, if any, influence they may have on activities.

Canada is unacceptable to try to silence people with smart tactics designed to discredit them and their funding.

have made a significant contribution to a particular region here at home or abroad, and have been alive on Feb. 6 2012, the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne (the medal can be awarded posthumously).

To recommend someone deserving of this honour, constituents can contact my office toll free at 1-877-563-7900 to obtain nomination forms. These forms must be returned to our office by Aug. 31.

As Her Majesty has consistently earned the admiration of all for her deep commitment to public service, our Government is proud to recognize her historic and significant anniversary.

In doing so, we're delivering on our commitment to reinforce our heritage through the celebration of her life and that define who we are as Canadians.

If our leaders want to pin all their hopes and our future on a twinned pipeline through Alberta and B.C. to ship raw tars sands bitumen to China, then Canadians at least deserve a proper conversation about it. We've seen recent signs of hope, with the Alberta government calling for a national energy strategy, for example, and with people in the media and elsewhere questioning the wisdom of employing an omnibus budget act to force environmental laws and attack charitable organizations.

With continued suppression of those who speak out about the environment and women's and human rights, along with muzzling of government scientists and cuts to government scientific and environmental programs and departments, it's clear we're facing a growing campaign, in part backed by industrial interests, to silence opposition.

We expect and deserve better. That's why we're speaking out: silence is not an option. We're asking all Canadians to join us to help preserve two core national values: nature and democracy. Let's keep Canada green.

Please visit the websites of your favourite environmental organizations on June 4 to add your voice.



■ **POLICE:** Jeff McGuire a 34-year Toronto police veteran

# Niagara's new chief former homicide investigator

ERICA RAJER  
QMI Agency Niagara

ST. CATHARINES — Niagara's new police chief has walked the beat.

Jeff McGuire has been in charge of Toronto's homicide squad. He's led Toronto's downtown 51 Division, known as one of the most challenging patrols in the city.

For 34 years, he climbed the Toronto Police Service ranks to acting deputy chief in charge of specialized units.

On June 18, he'll take over as Niagara Regional Police Service's top cop.

"I've spent my life, since I was 18, in policing," McGuire said. "I was looking for an opportunity where I would be able to lead a large organization and help it move forward."

His operational background is a contrast to that of retired chief Wendy Southall, Niagara's first civilian chief.

"Wendy's done a tremendous job," McGuire said. "There were things that needed to be fixed and organized properly and changed that she had the expertise to do ... she did that. A lot of the administrative pieces she's taken care of have made a difference and left a really good

framework.

"That side of the house is in really good shape."

McGuire said he's looking forward to working in Niagara, where two of his three daughters attended Brock University.

The married father admits there are challenges facing the local service, including its facilities plan and budget.

McGuire said his operational experience and strong background in investigations will help in his new role.

"That gives me the opportunity to get off on the right foot as a leader with the cop that's out there driving the car," he said. "I've certainly experienced almost every aspect of policing."

He acknowledged morale is also on his radar, calling it "absolutely important."

"It's key to the success of an organization," he said.

Niagara Region Police Association president Paul Di Simoni said morale among the rank and file has been low for a "considerable period of time."

He said the association is looking forward to working with McGuire, who has a good reputation in the policing community.

"I'm hoping together we can make positive changes in the organization," he said. "There's some things that can be done and should be done differently."

See CHIEF | page 6



McGuire



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## ■ CHIEF

■ MERRITTVILLE COLLISION: St. Catharines man remembered

## 'Vast experience'

FROM PAGE 5

He pointed to human resources issues and service delivery as areas he'll be looking to work on with McGuire.

Di Simoni said while there were qualified internal candidates for the chief's position, he respects the decision of the Niagara Police Services Board to hire from outside the community.

"It's really about the person and the skill sets they bring to the organization," he said.

Board chair Henry D'Angela said board members were looking for the best chief possible and liked what McGuire brought to the table.

"We felt he was the candidate best-suited to lead the Niagara Regional Police at this point in time," he said. "His resume speaks for itself in terms of his education and experience, which is critical."

He said McGuire's "vast experience base" and talents made him the man for the job.

Deputy Chief Joe Matthews said the board has named a new chief, a role he's been filling since Southall retired at the end of March.

He said that while he was a candidate for the chief's position, he respects the board's decision to hire from outside the organization. He's looking forward to working with McGuire and supporting him in his new role.

McGuire's contract is for five years.

— with files from Jeff Bolchouks

ERICA BAJER  
and SHAWN JEFFORDS  
QMI Agency Niagara

ST. CATHARINES — Regis Allard wouldn't want his loved ones to shed tears over his death.

He'd want them to celebrate a life well lived.

"He always used to say, 'Don't cry for me, just remember the good times,'" said his daughter, Megan Allard, 23. "We're so lucky and fortunate to have had him in our lives."

She said her dad died doing something he loved — riding his motorcycle.

The 47-year-old St. Catharines man was killed Wednesday morning on his way to work when his motorcycle collided with a pickup truck at the intersection of Merrittville Hwy. and Regional Rd. 20.

Allard rode his motorcycle everywhere and was always happy on the back of a bike, especially his new 2012 BMW.

"It was his new baby," Megan said.

She said her father and mother Michelle were planning to take the bike on a road trip to Nova Scotia to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in August.

They were more than a married couple, she said. They were best friends.

"I can only dream to have something close to the relationship they had," Megan said.

She said her dad was a courageous man who was a constant inspiration to her and her 20-year-old sister, Amanda.



Regis Allard

About five years ago, Allard went back to school to follow his dream of becoming a photographer.

"We were so proud of him. He went back to do something he loved and was passionate about," she said, noting he started his own photography business.

His photography instructor at Niagara College, JT Lewis, remembers Allard as a hard worker who was dedicated to

growing as a photographer.

"When he came to class, he was a very happy, easygoing person," Lewis said, adding it was a pleasure to work with him.

Megan said her dad had an infectious sense of humour and always saw the best in people.

"He was amazing. He was so strong and full of life," she said. "He was our rock."

Megan said her father

started riding motorcycles when he was 15. He was known for being extremely cautious and had completed an OPP Golden Helmets motorcycle safety course, she said.

The cause of the collision, which happened at 7:20 a.m., is being investigated by Niagara Regional Police.

Police said Wednesday that Allard was headed southbound on Merrittville

Highway when his motorcycle collided with a northbound pickup truck being driven by a 21-year-old Welland man. The pickup truck was turning west onto Regional Rd. 20, police said. The truck driver and his 20-year-old passenger weren't injured.

Niagara Region's traffic department is reviewing the configuration of the intersection where the collision occurred.

"We'll take a look at the traffic issues, the geometry of the intersection, the signage, just about every aspect of it to see if in some way you can make an engineering improvement that might mitigate the chances of any recurrence," said Joe Cousins, the Region's director of transportation services.

He said the crash is the first of that severity since the intersection was rebuilt three years ago. "Generally, if there is a serious injury or fatality, we want to take a look at it," he said. "We'll work with NRP."

John Doan, assistant treasurer of the Welland County Motorcycle Club, said the tragedy underscores the need for both riders and drivers to watch out for each other. The 75-year-old has been riding since he was a teenager and has had a few close calls.

"You are literally invisible," he said. "Drivers do not see you. You have to keep in mind that at times it seems like everyone who drives a car is a psychopath and is out to kill you. If you keep that in mind, you've got a prayer of making it."

See CRASH | A7

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## ■ CRASH

## Riders need to be careful

FROM PAGE 6

Doan said riders also need to be careful and follow the rules of the road.

"You have got to make yourself visible," he said.

Allard's family will receive relatives and friends at the Welland Funeral

Home on East Main St. on Friday from 1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. The funeral service will be held on Saturday at 11 a.m. in Eglise Sacré Coeur.

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# The Healthy Cupboard

## LeafSource

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This coming from a customer who had tried every other natural remedy under the sun in the past few years to take away her pain, Jan, the owner of The Healthy Cupboard couldn't believe his ears. He had finally found the perfect product to stop his customer's miseries. This is what every owner of a health food store dreams about, a natural product that receives so many outstanding testimonials on such a wide variety of health issues. I had recommended a new product called LeafSource, which we recently started carrying. We have had tremendous success with this product, and almost everyone we have recommended it to over the last few months has come back and thanked us over and over again! said Jan. Before trying LeafSource the woman had complained about her ongoing joint pain and was at her wit's end. Although she had experienced some relief through the numerous natural remedies she had tried over the years, the pain would never fully go away. She returned to my store, in tears, less than one week after buying LeafSource. I didn't know what to make of this woman standing in front of me crying, until she told me that within a few days of taking LeafSource her pain started to disappear and within a week it was completely gone - as if it was never there." Jan goes on, "This coming from a woman whose painful joints and ongoing sciatica were so bad just one week earlier, that the pain was unbearable but now has completely subsided." By now you are probably wondering what is LeafSource and why is it so effective? LeafSource is a 100% natural product derived from a proprietary organic mineral composite with over ten years of university research. LeafSource helps regulate the inflammatory process and the body's ability to repair itself. The vast majority (70 - 80%) of the population over the age of 50 have joint problems - often

called osteoarthritis. This is due to the natural (or unnatural) wear and tear on the joint tissue that develops through the aging process. With joint inflammation, movement is limited and pain can be constant. LeafSource seems to have the ability to help people get their mobility and zest for life back. Millions of people seek treatment for their joint and inflammation problems by resorting to expensive, toxic prescription drugs (i.e. NSAIDs) with multiple side effects. These range from nausea and vomiting to serious intestinal disorders (bleeding, gas, pain) and even kidney and liver failure. Isn't that too large a price to pay for a little pain relief? LeafSource is a safe alternative to these destructive anti-inflammatory drugs that cause more problems than they solve. There are absolutely no side effects and it doesn't interfere with any other medications. Controlled experiments and observations have revealed that LeafSource is a potent anti-inflammatory that has been shown to bring a reduction to inflammation and pain within a few days. People notice great results in terms of more energy and less pain by taking anywhere from 2 to 6 capsules/day. Typical maintenance is usually 1 capsule twice daily. This product gets results! LeafSource is scientifically validated through more than 10 years of research at 4 universities, including the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mercer University. Aside from its incredible anti-inflammatory and pain reducing ability, it has also been shown to improve the performance of your daily nutrition and vitamin programs. It helps

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increase the absorption of vital nutrients, which in turn helps these nutrients work better. Better absorption = better results! It's almost as if they have become supercharged! LeafSource has also been shown to help enhance energy levels, improve intestinal health, strengthen hair, skin and nails and improve immune function. To see someone go from intense pain to a new lease on life within a week is truly incredible. Imagine being able to move freely without pain. Who wouldn't want to get out of bed in the morning with more energy? It's amazing how much of this stuff we take for granted, until it's gone! Jan adds, "I often recommend that LeafSource be taken with other natural joint products in order to help them work better and provide even faster relief. One of the things I hear most often from people who have tried LeafSource is they just plain feel better, have more energy and less pain. We're so confident, we guarantee LeafSource 100% that alone should be enough to try this incredible product."

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## ■ DOG GRADUATES



Supplied Photo

On May 10 the Fonthill Lions and Lioness travelled to the Lions Foundation of Canada in Oakville to see their dog Keswick graduate. The dog, purchased jointly by the Lions and Lioness, is the second dog purchased to help better the life of someone visually impaired. Keswick will aid Colin Wilson of Hamilton. Pictured are, front row: Colin Wilson and Heswick. Back row: Lion John Mills, Lion Robert Yungblut, Lioness Linda Roach and Lioness Enid Gatlake.

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## ■ CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

# Brock lands Geldof

ANGELA SCAPPATURA  
QMI Agency Niagara

ST. CATHARINES — A rock icon, a Canadian crooner, a Broadway legend, ballet companies and the Berenstein Bears are among the 44 acts assembled for Brock's Centre for the Arts 2012-13 season.

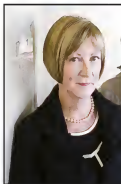
The new season, announced today, is an eclectic mix of dance, comedy, multimedia performance and music.

Some big names will roll into the city next fall, but perhaps none as iconic as musician and activist Bob Geldof.

The former lead singer of The Boomtown Rats will perform on Oct. 12.

Geldof, who organized the massive benefit concert series Live Aid, has become known for his activism in recent years.

When the opportunity to



QMI Agency Niagara  
Debbie Slade, director of the Centre of the Arts.

book Geldof was presented, Debbie Slade, director of the Centre of the Arts, said she was shocked.

His agent had called to say Geldof started a new band and was looking for a more intimate venue in

which to perform.

Hosting Geldof's performance is an amazing opportunity, said Slade. Geldof is by no means the only recognizable name in next year's lineup. Pop group Boyz II Men, Collin James, Colm Wilkinson and Natalie MacMaster will also perform.

While there are a host of new acts coming to St. Catharines, some performers are returning to the Brock stage.

The popular Leahy Family Christmas will be back after a successful holiday performance last year.

And for those who enjoy a good sing-a-long, *The Sound of Music* sing-a-long will be back in January. Last year's event sold out weeks before it was staged.

Brock will close its season with a sing-a-long of *Grease*.

## What

2012-13 HOT TICKET Professional Entertainment Season Centre for the Arts, Brock University

## Call

Arts.BrockUca 905-688-5550 ext. 3257

All performances start at 7:30 p.m. in the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre unless otherwise stated. DSH in listings indicates the David S. Howes Theatre.

## Tickets

Tickets on sale now to HOT TICKET members only. Become a new member as of June 15 to access advance tickets and more.

General public tickets go on sale Sept. 4, 2012 at 11 a.m.

Limited student discounted tickets available for all shows, \$5 High School students and \$20 University/College students as of Sept. 4, 2012.

## Lineup

### October 2012

Bob Geldof  
Friday, Oct. 12  
Colm James  
Thursday, Oct. 18

Jennifer Warrnes  
Friday, Oct. 19

Arto Guthrie: Here Comes the K  
id  
Wednesday, Oct. 24

Classic Albums Live: Queen — A Night at the Opera Thursday, Oct. 25

### November 2012

Pinkalicious  
Sunday, Nov. 11 (2:30 p.m., DSH)

Matt Dusk  
Thursday, Nov. 15

Evalyn Parry: SPIN  
Saturday, Nov. 17 (DSH)

Azure Barton & Artists: Project  
XXI  
Saturday, Nov. 24 (DSH)

Colm Wilkinson  
Wednesday, Nov. 28

### December 2012

David Clayton-Thomas  
Saturday, Dec. 1

Classic Albums Live: The Rolling  
Stones — Sticky Fingers Thurs-  
day, Dec. 6

Ballet Credo: Scoulliff Messiah  
Friday, Dec. 7 (DSH)

John McDermott  
Sunday, Dec. 9

The Klezmatics  
Thursday, Dec. 13

Leahy Family Christmas  
Thursday, Dec. 20

Leahy Family Christmas  
Friday, Dec. 21 (2:30 p.m., DSH)

### January 2013

Brent Butt  
Wednesday, Jan. 16

Danny Michel with special  
guests The Heartbroken  
Thursday, Jan. 17

America  
Wednesday, Jan. 23

Sing-a-long Sound of Music  
Sunday, Jan. 27 (1:00 p.m., DSH)

Taj Mahal Trio  
Wednesday, Jan. 30

Axi's Theatre: The Number 14  
Thursday, Jan. 31

### February 2013

Ballet BC: Encore  
Saturday, Feb. 2 (DSH)

We're Going On A Bear Hunt  
Monday, Feb. 18 (2:30 p.m., DSH)

Nathanial Dett Chorale & Elmer  
Iseler Singers:  
Amazing Graces  
Thursday, Feb. 21

Raul Midón  
Wednesday, Feb. 27

LadySmith Black Mambo  
Thursday, Feb. 28

### March 2013

ScrapArtsMusic  
Wednesday, March 6

Randy Bachman  
Friday, March 8

The Best of Sting and the  
Police with Jearns' n Classics  
Band and Niagara Symphony  
Saturday, March 9

Bowfire  
Saturday, March 16

The Berenstein Bears Live!  
Sunday, March 17 (2:30 p.m., DSH)

Tyler Yarema and His Rhythm  
Wednesday, March 20

The Intergalactic Nemesis  
Thursday, March 21

Whitehorse  
Wednesday, March 27

### April 2013

Ballet Jorgen Canada: Swan  
Lake  
Sunday, April 7 (2:30 p.m., DSH)

Classic Albums Live: The Beat-  
les — Rubber Soul/Revolver  
Thursday, April 11

Boyz II Men  
Saturday, April 13

Just For Laughs Roadshow  
Wednesday, April 17

Jake Shimabukuro  
Thursday, April 18

Natalie MacMaster  
Saturday, April 20

Good Lovelies  
Thursday, April 25

Sing-a-long Grease  
Sunday, April 28 (1:00 p.m., DSH)

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Saturday, May 26th 12pm - Closing

Sunday, May 27th 12p.m. - 4 p.m.

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fox boost king box, leather interior, alloy wheels, wireless door lock, trailer tow pkg, 6 speed automatic

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### 2012 F150 FX4 SUPERCREW 4X4



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# CARNIVAL

## MAY 25 26 27

### Friday Night, May 25

5:00pm

The Midway Opens  
Lioness Penny Sale in the Clubhouse  
Carnival Parade  
Begins at Bethany Christian Church, proceeds north on Balfour St., west on Canboro Rd., & south on Church St. to Centennial Park  
Midway closes

11:00pm

### Saturday, May 26

8:00am-noon Breakfast served at the Lions Food Booth  
Lioness Penny Sale in the Clubhouse  
Midway Rides & Games  
Live Plant Auction  
Spectacular Fireworks Display

12:00-closing

1:00pm-closing

2:00pm-4:00pm

10:00pm

### Sunday, May 27

8:00am-noon

Breakfast served at the Lions Food Booth  
Lioness Penny Sale in the Clubhouse  
Cow Plop Lottery Results - Go Bessie!

8:00am-4:00pm

2:00pm

### AGAIN THIS YEAR!

Purchase an all-day midway pass for only \$20.00 and your child(ren) will enjoy unlimited rides on either Friday 5:00-Close, Saturday 1:00-Close or Sunday 12:00-Close  
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## ■ VENTRESCA

# Insight into his own life

FROM PAGE 15

Over time, he said, caring for seniors has changed.

Ventresca said 17.4% of Niagarans are senior citizens, compared to 13% province-wide, but more and more elders are staying active into

their 60s and 70s.

On the flip side, though, they're seeking care later in life, in their 80s and 90s, when they're typically in poorer health.

For Ventresca's part, he said learning how to care for others as they age has given

him a unique insight into his own life.

He said he's keenly aware of the changes that come with growing old, including the loss of physical prowess, mental sharpness and loved ones, and he's aware of the life experience and learning that come

with aging.

"Even how retirement affects people," he said. "I studied that back in my 20s, and now I'm coming to that stage myself."

That's led him to develop interests off the job, too, though he said he'll likely join a couple committees on seniors issues.

In the meantime, he said he plans to "catch up a bit on life" and spend some time with his two adult sons, new grandson and mother.

"You hear the expression that you live and learn," he said.

"Well, I learned and lived."

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■ **INFORMATION:** Policy would provide a uniform appearance

# Could be a curve ahead for tourism signs in Niagara

JEFF BOLCHOWSKI  
QMI Agency Niagara

ST. CATHARINES — There could soon be one style of tourism

sign to rule them all in Niagara.

A draft policy for such signs cleared Niagara regional council's public works committee

Tuesday. The plan, which still needs approval from council, would see the Region move to a uniform, easy-to-understand sign system that would gradually

replace the existing crazy-quilt of sign styles as they wear out.

But while the committee recommended the policy plan, with only three votes against, some

warned against erecting a forest of signs or posting them where they're not welcome.

"What I can't accept is a big four-foot sign taking over my

sidewalks in a built-up area," said Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey.

See **CURVE** | page 18

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## ■ CURVE

# 'Keep that Niagara brand on the sign'

FROM PAGE 17

Big, bold tourism signs work on highways and some of the faster regional roads, he said. But he feared they'd dominate the scenery and take over sidewalks on slower roads within city limits.

Though he ultimately backed the plan, he took issue with the logos on the signs. They'd been expected to sport Niagara Region logos when posted on regional roads.

But he wanted both.

"I think what's equally impor-

tant is to keep that (Niagara) brand on the sign," Badawey said, figuring signs could host a city logo on top and a Region logo on the bottom.

The recommendations have been in the works since 2008. They're aimed in part at



Badawey

coming up with signs close to the standard in Canada and the U.S., allowing travellers to recognize them easily.

It would take more than 30,000 visitors per year, as well as public access for a tourist attraction, for a site to be eligible to appear on a sign.



Augustyn

Welland Coun. George Marshall added another motion, sending staff back to take a closer look at sign pollution. And St. Catharines Coun. Andy Petrowski chimed in, suggesting signs sport QR codes readable by mobile phones.

As to large signs, Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn said a smaller version of the "multi-blazer" signs in the policy would be a good idea.

"I think it's important for us to embrace these guidelines," he said.

## ■ AGRICULTURE: Len Troup passes the torch

# Retired tenderfruit board chair branches in a new direction

KARIENA WALTER  
QMA Agency/Niagara

LINCOLN — Len Troup is leaving the politics of fruit behind and getting back to the family farm.

"I've gone back to my roots," said Troup, the longtime voice of the Ontario Tender Fruit Producers' Marketing Board.

"I've become kind of the goopher. I have no intention of going into management again."

Troup, 68, retired from the chairman position he held for 15 years when his term officially ended in April. He was a director on the board for more than half his life, serving for 35 years.

He announced he wouldn't be running for the position at the annual general meeting, saying he believed it was time to retire and let others take the helm.

Niagara-on-the-Lake farmer Phil Tregunna has taken over as new chairman.

Troup saw significant industry changes over the decades at the board. The viable processing side of the industry in Ontario shut down and is now almost an exclusively fresh market industry, he said.

The number of individual farms has shrunk, as growers have consolidated to meet the demands of the market.

"The world changes and we have to adapt," Troup said, explaining variety of product has changed, too.

But the challenge has been the cost of doing business when its cheaper to import products from foreign markets than produce them in Ontario.

"It's a tough time now to be in the tender fruit business. Our costs are very high, mostly due to government policy," he said, adding that's due to high wages and food safety standards.

"It's a great time to be a consumer. They probably don't know it, but they've got a real bargain here."

Troup said relative to the

world, local growers offer the best and safest food and it's cheaper relative to income.

His role as chairman of the board but became much more about politics than he ever anticipated.

The grower, he said, is at the receiving end of politically-influenced events, like free trade and the value of the dollar. Decision-makers often fail to see the impact on the growers, Troup said.

"We were charged with overseeing the marketing of our product," he said. "We're still doing that but we spend an awful lot of time now in politics, trying to influence decisions at the government level and working with other farm groups to try and have a bigger voice."

One of Troup's proudest moments on the board was when growers came together during the plum pox devastation in 2000 to save massive amounts of orchards removed.

Troup said they were able to hold the farmers together and speak as one, which was extremely difficult. There were different opinions and strong individuals but they worked as a unit, he said.

As a result, Troup said the tender fruit growers had a lot of influence and changed the minds of those at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency more than once. "At the time it was something a lot of people thought we couldn't do and we did it anyway," Troup said.

Today, Troup is content to leave politics behind and get his hands dirty back at Lakelse, where his oldest son and brother are running the farm with other family members.



Troup

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## AROUND TOWN

## Thursday, May 24

## KIDS CAN GROW

Pelham Farmers Market presents the great pumpkin challenge. Register at the marketplace between 4:30 p.m. and 8:30. Everything will be provided including pot and seeds, plus the rest. Bring pumpkin back during Fall Festival on Oct. 18.

## Saturday, May 26

## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

at the Fonthill Lions Club, 903 Hurricane Rd. at Regional Rd. 20 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Collection would include computers, monitors, audio and video players, copiers, fax machines, cell phones, answering machines and more. For information visit recycleyelectronics.ca.

## Monday May 28

## PELHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

7:30 - 9 p.m. meeting at the Pelham Library, Fonthill Branch. Darren Schmalz, instructor at

the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture, will present the design and rehabilitation of an 1818 Empire Loyalist home using only native plants and local sandstone. All welcome. Membership only \$7.

## ONGOING

## TUESDAY NIGHT BINGO

St. Ann's Parish, 834 Canboro Rd., Fenwick, 7 p.m. Continues every Tuesday to the end of June. Wheelchair accessible. Chance to win \$100. 905-892-6123.

## ST. ALEXANDER

## PASTA NIGHT

first Thursday of every month at St. Alexander Church, Town Square, Fonthill. Admission: \$9 for adults, \$4 for children age four to 12 and children under three free. All you can eat red and white sauce, penne, meatballs, sausage, garlic bread, salads and more. Catered by Antipasto's.

## LIONS FISH FRY

every second Friday at Fenwick's Centennial park from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Large two-piece dish of haddock and fries. \$10, one piece \$5. For sole slow add \$1. This 15-day season runs from April to October fish fry dates are: April 6, April 20, May 4, May 18, June 1, June 15, June 29, July 13, July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24, Sept. 7, Sept. 21, Oct. 5 and Oct. 19.

## PELHAM FARMERS MARKET

runs each Thursday evening market from 4:30 p.m. to dusk in the parking lot of the Pelham Municipal Building in Fonthill. The weekly sale of local produce, flowers and agricultural products continues weekly until Oct. 25.

## FONTHILL LEGION LUNCH

each Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613 hall on Regional Rd. 20 east of downtown Fonthill. \$9 with takeout available. Main dish

plus dessert, tea and coffee.

## ALZHEIMER SOCIETY

of Niagara Region Support Groups for Caregivers meets the first Tuesday of each month, except July and August, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Raffle Lodge, 277 Plymouth Rd., Welland. For info call 905-67-3914.

## ALZHEIMER SOCIETY

of Niagara Region Support Groups for Caregivers meets the third Monday of each month, except July and August, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Alzheimer Society, 403 Ontario St., St. Catharines. For info call 905-687-3914.

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## AUDITIONS

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+ 2L Pepsi****29<sup>99</sup>****Look for our flyer online at [www.CommissosFreshFoods.com](http://www.CommissosFreshFoods.com)**[CommissosFreshFoods.com](http://CommissosFreshFoods.com)

Sale prices in effect Friday May 25 through Thursday May 31, 2012

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**6161 Thorold Stone Rd., Niagara Falls • STORE HOURS: Sat & Sun 8am to 8pm • Mon to Fri 7am to 9pm**